

### **REMARKS**

Applicants hereby request further consideration of the application in view of the amendments above and the comments that follow.

#### **Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Claims 11 stands rejected under Section 112. Claims 1-5, 7, and 15-18 stand rejected under Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Soviet Union Patent No. 764698 to Karpacheva et al. (hereinafter "Karpacheva"). Claims 8, 10, 11, and 21 stand rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Karpacheva.

Claims 6, 9, 12, 13, 19 and 20 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 23-25 have been allowed.

#### **The Claims as Amended are in Condition for Allowance**

Claim 11 has been amended to overcome the rejection under Section 112.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of former Claim 6, which has been indicated as allowable.

Claims 9, 12, 19 and 20, each of which has been indicated as allowable, have been rewritten in independent form.

Claims 23 and 24, which have been indicated as allowable, have been rewritten to better conform to U.S. practice.

All of the remaining pending claims depend from one of the foregoing claims. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance.

### **CONCLUSION**

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and the same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any matters

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outstanding of resolution, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 919-854-1400 for expeditious handling.

Respectfully submitted,

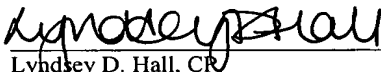


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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 17, 2003.

  
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